GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1950
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2006
REJECTION OF VOUCHER SCHEME
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Ministry of Human Resource Development has rejected the voucher scheme − mooted in the draft approach paper to XI Five Year Plan as reported in the Hindu dated October 13, 2006;

(b)if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c)the steps taken by the Government to universalisation of elementary education?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. The voucher system in our country may not be a viable alternative to setting-up of government schools since the education gap is more in rural areas, which have very few private schools. It may also result in higher expenditure on education as the average cost of schooling in private un-aided schools is generally higher than that of government schools.

(c):Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was launched in 2001- 02, as an umbrella programme for Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE). It covered the whole country, and aims to universal access, retention and quality in elementary education.